



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 768

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6706

House of Representatives, May 7, 2015

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILING FEE FOR GRIEVANCES OR DISPUTES SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 31-97 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Whenever a grievance or dispute arises between an employer
4 and his employees, the parties may submit the same directly to said
5 board and notify said board or its clerk in writing and upon payment
6 by each party of a filing fee of [twenty-five] fifty dollars. Whenever a
7 single public member of the board is chosen to arbitrate a grievance or
8 dispute, as provided in section 31-93, the parties shall each be
9 refunded the filing fee. Whenever such notification is given, a panel of
10 said board, as directed by its chairman, shall proceed with as little
11 delay as possible to the locality of such grievance or dispute and
12 inquire into the causes thereof. The parties shall thereupon submit to
13 said panel in writing, succinctly, clearly and in detail, their grievances

14 and complaints and the causes thereof, and severally promise and
15 agree to continue in business or at work without a strike or lockout
16 until the decision of the panel is rendered; but such agreement shall
17 not be binding unless such decision is rendered within ten days after
18 the completion of the investigation. The panel shall fully investigate
19 and inquire into the matters in controversy, take testimony under oath
20 in relation thereto and may administer oaths and issue subpoenas for
21 the attendance of witnesses and for the production of books and
22 papers.

23 (b) No panel of said board may consider any claim that one or more
24 of the issues before the panel are improper subjects for arbitration
25 unless the party making such claim has notified the opposing party
26 and the chairman of the panel of such claim, in writing, at least ten
27 days prior to the date of hearing, except that the panel may consider
28 such claim if it determines there was reasonable cause for the failure of
29 such party to comply with said notice requirement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	31-97

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	30,200	30,200

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None**Explanation**

The bill increases, from \$25 to \$50, the fee paid by each party for filing a grievance with the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration effective July 1, 2015. This results in a General Fund revenue gain of \$30,200 annually beginning in FY 16. This estimate is based on the historical number of grievances filed annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to fluctuation in the number of grievances filed annually.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6706*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILING FEE FOR GRIEVANCES OR DISPUTES SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from \$25 to \$50, the grievance filing fee that each party to a dispute must pay to the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (SBMA) in order for the board to consider the matter. By law and unchanged by the bill, in situations where a single public member of SBMA is chosen to arbitrate a grievance, the filing fee will be refunded to each party. Under the law, grievances can be heard by a single arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***SBMA***

The SBMA provides mediation and arbitration services for disputes between employers and employees under the State Employee Relations Act and the Municipal Employee Relations Act and in certain private sector situations. An employer and its employees can choose to submit a grievance or dispute to the board for mediation or an arbitration decision.

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 315) to the Appropriations Committee which reported a substitute bill that eliminates the original bill's provisions to increase:

1. the per diem payments for arbitrators from \$150 to (a) \$200 on and after July 1, 2015, and (b) \$225 on and after July 1, 2016 for

each additional day after the first day, and

2. the payment for panel members on the conclusion of an executive session from \$150 to \$175, effective July 1, 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION**Labor and Public Employees Committee**

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/12/2015)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 5 (04/29/2015)